Indiscriminate and unauthorised felling of trees in forests

†1301. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards indiscriminate and unauthorised felling of trees in the forests;

(b) if so, whether any measures to stop it have been taken or are under consideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The protection and management of forests primarily is the responsibility of the State Governments. There is no specific report with the Central Government regarding indiscriminate and unauthorised felling of trees in the forests of the country. However, due to the biotic pressures on the forests, incidents of illicit felling do occur in various parts of the country which are detected and dealt with under the various provisions of Indian Forest Act and other relevant rules.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has requested the State Governments to strengthen the forest protection machinery and to declare forest protection, as a Plan item and invest more funds for the protection of forests throught state plan budgets. Central Government has issued guidelines to all the States and UTs for involving the local people in the protection and management of forests under the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme. The JFM programme was launched in June 1990 and so far 10.24 million ha. of forest lands are being managed by 36165 JFM Committees in 23 states of the country. Due to the implementation of JFM significant changes have occurred in forest regeneration and protection.

Integrated Forestry Development Project in Gujarat

1302. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a forestry project titled, "Integrated Forestry Development Project", is under implementation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the date of its starting and completion;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) the details of foreign aid; and

(d) the area earmarked for the project and the work completed thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project was started in March 1996 and is scheduled to be completed in March 2001.

(c) Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) has agreed to provide loan of 15760 million yen for the project.

(d) Afforestation over 2.31 lakh ha. area is contemplated under the project as against which 2.32 lakh hectares area has already been tackled upto Sept. 2000.

National Forestry Action Plan in Manipur

1303. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Forest Department of Manipur Government has submitted a proposal for external assistance for implementation of National Forestry Action Plan in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the consultant appointed by the Ministry of Environment & Forests in consultation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has formulated two concept papers namely, Manipur Forestry Development Project and Forest Wasteland Development Project for Manipur to secure external assistance for implementation of National Forestry Action Programme in the State. The concept papers have been sent to the Government of Manipur on 3rd November, 2000 to ascertain whether they are in conformity with their views and implementable.